

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are now in the application. Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "at a range of 5 to 150 kV". In addition, the claims have been amended where appropriate by deleting drawing reference numerals and to recite "wherein" in place "**characterised** in that" for purposes of clarification and not to limit their scope. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "A device" and claims 2-4 have been amended to recite "The device" in place of "Device" for purposes of clarification and not to limit their scope. The amendments to the claims do not introduce any new matter.

The objection to the specification has been overcome by the amendments to the specification. The objection to the Drawings has been addressed by the Replacement drawing Sheet. The objection to the Abstract has been overcome by the attached new Abstract.

Claims 1, 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,072,477 to Hanson et al. in view of US Patent 6,267,802 to Baldrey et al. Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,072,477 to Hanson et al. in view of US Patent 6,267,802 to Baldrey et al. and in view of US Patent 4,141,698 to Kihlstedt et al. The cited references do not render obvious the present invention. In particular, neither Hanson et al. nor Baldrey et al. suggests using ion emitting tips directed towards the collecting surfaces for generating ion jets rushing from the ion emitting tips towards the collecting surfaces. Therefore, persons skilled in the art could not arrive at the device of independent claim 1 as amended by combining the suggestions of Hanson et al. and Baldrey et al. In addition, Kihlstedt et al. do not overcome the above discussed deficiencies of Hanson et al. and Baldrey et al with respect to rendering unpatentable the presently claimed invention.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve in any way to advance the prosecution of this application, the undersigned is available at the telephone number noted below.

Please charge any fee due with this paper to our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 22331-00001-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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